

## Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00  
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00  
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OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
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INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
USLO PEKING  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1449

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PLOS, KS, US  
SUBJECT: KOREAN VIEWS ON LAW OF THE SEA ISSUES

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS  
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SUBJECT: KOREAN VIEWS ON LAW OF THE SEA ISSUES

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSION WITH DR. PARK CHOON-HO, KOREAN  
RESEARCHER AT HARVARD LAW SCHOOL AND LEGAL EXPERT AT LAW  
OF THE (LOS) CONFERENCE SESSIONS VISITING SEOUL, PROVIDED  
UNOFFICIAL OVERVIEW OF KOREAN POSITIONS ON LOS ISSUES.

2. PARK POINTED OUT KOREA IS ONE OF FEW PLACES WHERE  
VIRTUALLY ALL LOS ISSUES ARE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE. CHIEF  
KOREAN CONCERNS ARE: 1. WHETHER TO PROCLAIM 12 NM  
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LIMIT AND/OR 200 NM ECONOMIC ZONE; 2. HOW TO PROTECT  
FISHERIES AFFECTED BY OTHERS' 200 NM ZONES; 3. STATUS  
OF NORTHWEST ISLANDS (PAENGNYONG-DO) AND OTHERS UNDER  
ROK CONTROL BUT WITHIN WATERS CLAIMED BY DPRK; 4. NAVI-  
GATION THROUGH INT'S. STRAITS, CHEJU-DO STRAIT AND  
KOREAN STRAITS (STRAITS OF TSUSHIMA); 5. OWNERSHIP OF  
TOK-DO (TAKESHIMA) IN SEA OF JAPAN, AND EFFECT OWNING

IT WOULD HAVE ON TERRITORIAL CLAIMS; 6. EXPLOITATION OF CONTINENTAL SHELF RESOURCES IN AREA DISPUTED WITH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

3. WITHIN ROKG, PARK SAID, CLASHES OF INSTITUTIONAL INTERESTS AMONG VARIOUS ROKG MINISTRIES PREVENT ROKG FROM TAKING DEFINITE STANDS ON THESE ISSUES. INTER-MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE HELD 28 JANUARY 1977 IN WAKE OF JAPANESE DECISION TO GO TO 12 MILE LIMIT RESULTED ONLY IN WORKING-LEVEL COMMITTEE "TO STUDY QUESTION FURTHER." PARK SAYS KOREANS "WOULD PREFER TO SIT BACK, WATCH WHAT OTHERS DO, AND THEN DECIDE ACCORDINGLY."

4. ON STRAITS ISSUE, PRINCIPAL KOREAN INTEREST IS TO DENY FREE PASSAGE TO NORTH KOREA, WHICH MUST MAINTAIN TWO NAVIES, AND ALLIES, MAINLY USSR, BUT KOREANS APPRECIATE FORCE OF AMERICAN ARGUMENT THAT "INNOCENT PASSAGE" REGIME WORLDWIDE WOULD LIMIT US ABILITY TO SUPPLY KOREANS IN CASE OF HOSTILITIES.

5. PARK CONCEDED KOREANS AND JAPANESE HAD WEAK POSITION ON RIGHTS OVER "BLOCK 7" OF YELLOW SEA CONTINENTAL SHELF, SAID PRC POSITION STRESSING EXTENT OF YELLOW RIVER SEDIMENTATION ON SHELF WAS IN ACCORD WITH RECENT ICJ DECISION AND STRONGER THAN KOREAN-JAPANESE PROPOSAL TO DIVIDE BY REFERENCE TO BASELINES AND MIDPOINTS.

6. COMMENT: CONVERSATION EXPLAINS PERCEIVED ROK MOFA CONFIDENTIAL

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RELUCTANCE TO DISCUSS SPECIFICS OF KOREAN LOS POSITIONS. WE HAVE SINCE BEEN INFORMED BY ASSISTANT MINISTER OF MOFA KIM THAT HE IS URGING POSTPONMENT OF FURTHER DISCUSSION OF LOS (OR AT LEAST TERRITORIAL SEA ASPECT) WITHIN ROKG UNTIL FORTHCOMING ROUND OF LOS CONFERENCE IS COMPLETED. THERE HAVE BEEN TWO APPARENTLY INCONCLUSIVE BUREAU DIRECTOR LEVEL INTER-MINISTERIAL MEETINGS ON THIS SUBJECT IN LAST MONTH.  
SNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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